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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Wolfgang HEIL et al. : Group Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No.: 09/757,688 : Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: January 11, 2001 :

For: DROSPIRENONE FOR HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-76 in their entirety and insert the following new claims 77-132:

Subj
Att
--77. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

as a first active agent, an estrogen (or naturally or synthetic derivative thereof) in sufficient amounts to treat diseases, disorders and symptoms associated with deficient endogenous levels of estrogen in women, and

as a second active agent, 6,7;15;16-dimethylene-3-oxo-17-preg-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone (drospirenone) in sufficient amounts to protect the endometrium from the adverse effects of estrogen,

together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.